

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston; Cathy Reeves (community representative); David Schell (community representative); and George Klosler (community representative)

Regrets: Chair Jim Pickard

Staff: Works Superintendent Adam Prouse, Chief Building Official Howard Leaver and Clerk Julie Middleton

Call to Order

Mayor David Mayberry called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Howard Leaver
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the February 7th, 2024 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as amended.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Howard Leaver
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the minutes of the December 6th, 2023 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

EV Charging Station in Dereham Centre and Mount Elgin Hall

Discussion took place among the Committee with respect to adding another EV charger for Township use only and not for public use. The Committee also questioned if the Mount Elgin Hall board would be interested in making efforts to promote the charging station in Mount Elgin for public use. Julie advised the Committee that staff can run a report to show usage of the charging station including electrical cost and revenue/rate charged. Websites are available online to register such as PlugShare.

Hydro Usage – Township Facilities

The Committee discussed the current energy usage and audit progress for the Township's municipal buildings. Staff are waiting for the remainder of the bills from the Dereham Centre Hall Board – they will be added to the next meeting agenda when received. The Brownsville Community Centre has not been audited yet – it appears that the hydro for the Brownsville Fire Station is separate from the hall. The Committee was of the opinion that the usage at the Brownsville Hall is high.

Tree Planting

Julie Middleton received the following tree planting contacts from Councillors George Way and Paul Buchner:

- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority – Rob Davies: 519-451-2800 ext 243 or daviesr@thamesriver.on.ca
- Catfish Creek Conservation Authority – Gerrit Kremers: 519-852-3560; or Peter Dragunas: 519-521-2583 – Cathy advised that the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority posted that there is funding available for wetlands – we can share this on social media as well.

Long Point Regional Conservation Authority has released their spring 2024 tree planting details. Property owners must have a minimum of 5 acres in the watershed, and the minimum order is 150 seedlings per species. This information has been shared on social media and will continue to be shared throughout the spring.

Municipal Office – Electrical Audit

CBO Howard Leaver presented the results of the electrical audit at the Municipal Office, completed by Smith Services. The following items require further investigation to determine what is causing the specific issue(s):

- Circuit 1

- Computer circuit #1
- Circuit 35
- Circuit 20
- Computer Circuit #7

Staff will have to check the kitchen lights to make sure the timer is working properly. Tim will evaluate the data and provide a further report for the committee on the findings of the audit.

Mount Elgin Community Centre Insulation

The Committee reviewed a quote from Wall Construction for framing, drywall and insulation of the Mount Elgin Community Centre. The framing and drywall itself will cost approximately \$21,500, the insulation will cost \$17,975 and additional work including painting, new baseboards and electrical boxes was estimated to cost \$10,700 – for a total quote of \$50,175 plus HST. This will give approximately R20+. It was discussed that the payback on this project would be closed to 30 years.

It was questioned if there may be another project that would provide the Township with a better return on investment such as air source heat pumps at the Mount Elgin and in the municipal office.

With respect to the radiators at the Salford Hall – Howard advised that the air was not being released in the radiators and this needs to be done a couple of times a year. This is fixed and working properly now. The boiler system with radiators is an efficient option and currently working well.

Dereham Centre Hall Insulation

The Committee reviewed a quote from Wall Construction for installing insulation in the walls at the Dereham Centre Hall, which was estimated at approximately \$12,000 plus HST. The Dereham Centre Hall Board is also planning to replace their windows. Howard will share the quote received with the hall board.

Tommy Williams Park Film Plastic Waste

Adam Prouse advised that a collection bin may be place at the Tommy Williams Park. He will reach out to County staff to find out the status of the County film waste collection project and how the product is being used. It may be beneficial to share this information with the public to highlight how this is beneficial to diverting waste from the landfill. He noted that the parking lot at the Tommy Williams Park is not cleared in the winter months – accessing it may be a challenge. Individuals are continuing to use the collection bin at the municipal office and in Beachville.

Discussion Items

Brainstorming/Round Table Discussion:

- Electrical audit is currently being done at the Public Works shop.
- Fans have been discussed in the past for the shop; however, they are expensive.
- Air source heat pumps may be considered in other facilities – Mount Elgin Hall and Municipal Office.
- Continuing to look at electric options for Township fleet – options are still limited for large vehicles and very expensive.
- Encourage the purchase and use of electric school buses locally.
- LED lighting is saving energy. Follow up with Tim Smith after the audit and consider replacing all lights with LED in all Township facilities.
- Do we have a month-to-month comparison for Mount Elgin Hall (hydro and heat?). Compare this January to January, 2023.
- No waste at the parks – City of Waterloo (puppy poop power) – share the link on the next agenda.
- Dill pickle juice instead of salt on sidewalks for ice removal. The Township and County have experimented with beet juice before. The Township doesn't use any liquid at all on roads.
- Province is amending the endangered species act again.
- Cathy will share link to funding opportunity through Wellington County.
- Tree planting for wetland buffers and to prevent soil loss, and expand native grasses, tree cover.
- Soil erosion prevention, many farms have taken out fence rows – encourage farmers to put them back in.
- Climate change – storms are going to become more severe, more flooding, infrastructure protection – will also result in further soil erosion. Road culverts – consider making them larger – need to ensure that water has somewhere to go.
- Consider review and update of Township servicing standards to account for more precipitation.
- Red wiggler worms – Fort Nelson project. The worms eat paper and cardboard and converted it to a compost material that is sold. Howard will look into whether we would be willing to give us a virtual presentation.
- New net zero municipal office with child care – solar panels on roof of office and green roof on child care/community garden/greenhouse.
- Education and awareness – changing weather patterns and more extreme weather – topic for general communication from the Township (Emergency Preparedness Week, 2024).
- Organic waste collection – County will be looking at this and considering this going into 2025. A report is scheduled to come forward to County Council in April, 2024.
- Flood risk forecasting model – David will follow up with UTRCA. Adam advised that the Township continues to work with UTRCA and Long Point for municipal drain projects and any time that the Township upgrades a culvert.

